



# FMMI in the NEWS

## Financial Management Modernization Initiative

Issue #7 - June 2009



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## FMMI in the News Overview

FMMI in the News serves as a central source of information to Agency and Staff Office leadership and points of contact (POCs) on all things related to the Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI).

While the current focus of the newsletter is to provide information to the Agency and Staff Office leadership and POCs, please share this newsletter with other interested parties in your Agency as appropriate.

To ensure *FMMI in the News* is relevant to you and your Agency or Staff Office, please let us know what topics you would like to hear by sending feedback, comments and suggestions to the FMMI Mailbox at [FMMI@usda.gov](mailto:FMMI@usda.gov).

## A Word from our Testing Lead -- Ron Gros

The Testing process for FMMI officially began June 1st. As FMMI is scheduled to Go-Live in October, there is a lot of testing which must occur to ensure the system will be ready: System Test, Quality Assurance Test and User Test. For the system testing we have taken a shared team approach with both USDA and FMMI core team members coming to the table to take the system for a test drive. For several weeks these individuals will be focusing on performing test scripts, reporting errors and running test scripts again until all business requirements are met and satisfied.

The key benefit of having a shared team is the diversity of backgrounds and experiences around the table which helps make certain we consider issues from every angle or possible repercussion. While some individuals have deep technical expertise, others bring a long tenure with OCFO and how systems currently work. This is especially important to understand how much or how little of a change FMMI will bring to our people and how quickly we can expect people will adapt to the change.

It is also important for USDA team members to see firsthand how much of a benefit the new system will be once deployed. As one of the USDA testing team members said *"The Drill Down capability is a big plus. Right now we have over 400 tables to seek information from, and any given query may take us to a number of them. That we are able to look at a transaction and drill down to nearly every detail is great!"*

As we complete our various Testing phases, we will share the overall results with the larger FMMI audience.

*A special note of congratulations to Ron on his promotion, effective June 21<sup>st</sup>, to **Information Technology Specialist** for USDA. Ron will retain the same responsibilities as the Quality Assurance Lead for FMMI Testing in addition to the new responsibilities he will assume. Congratulations Ron!*



Ron Gros,  
FMMI Testing Lead

## FMMI Deployment 1 Testing Overview

To ensure the FMMI system is fully operational by Deployment 1, several stages of testing occur: System Test, Quality Assurance Test, and User Test. The calendar at the bottom of the page displays the sequence of testing cycles over several months.

System Test is the first point where the functional and business requirements for the FMMI solution are tested together. In this testing stage, the team tests the system for each individual business activity to confirm the following:

- Business requirements are met and satisfied
- Functional specifications are correctly implemented
- Complex business processes are executed correctly in an integrated sequence
- Business process errors and exception logic are handled correctly
- Business roles and security roles are correctly implemented
- Compliance checks are executed

*System Testing is the first point where the functional and business requirements for the FMMI solution are tested together.*

System Test occurs in multiple iterations, each of which looks at specific criteria:

- Pass 1 includes a mixture of simple to complex business scenarios and interfaces tested using data converted from USDA's legacy systems. In addition to testing configuration and interfaces, Pass 1 will also test the FMMI Portal, security roles, compliance designs, and compliance effectiveness.
- Pass 2 focuses on more complex scenarios using converted data which consists of master data and transactional data. Pass 2 also includes Month End and Year End test scenarios. In addition to this, security roles and compliance effectiveness will be tested.
- Pass 3 re-executes the entire testing from System Test Pass 1 and 2, emphasizing but not limited to testing the defects fixed from previous passes (if required) along with the FMMI Portal. Security roles and compliance effectiveness will also be tested. No further defects should be found in this pass nor should new scenarios be tested or introduced in this pass.

The purpose of Quality Assurance Test is to independently test all new software and modifications / enhancements to existing software on behalf of USDA. This testing focuses on the USDA Corporate Systems (e.g., IAS, GovTrip, etc.) and Deployment 1 Candidate System interfaces, specifically testing all end-to-end processes. Quality Assurance Test confirms that the implementation of each software requirement is tested for compliance.

The FMMI testing process is a coordinated activity between the USDA Quality Assurance (QA) Team and the FMMI Team. An independent USDA Team (the ACFO-FSPM QA Team) prepares all of the test plans and test cases, conducts the testing, documents the results, and prepares a summary report of the testing. The FMMI Core Team provided navigational training in SAP, and provided additional training on test processes, testing tools, and methodology during the Testing Kick-off in May. Functional resources will also be paired with testing team members as the project moves through the various testing stages.

The final testing stage is User Testing. USDA QA team sign-off is necessary prior to beginning the User Acceptance Test. User Test gives selected users from the stakeholder community an opportunity to test the system to confirm it meets functional and business requirements identified for FMMI. A subset of test scenarios from System Test Pass 2 and 3 along with the FMMI Portal will be tested and executed by Agency and Staff Office Testers and/or other users. In addition to this, security roles and compliance effectiveness will also be tested. User Test is scheduled to commence following the Quality Assurance test completion and prior to Deployment 1 Go-Live scheduled for October 1, 2009.

May	June	July	August	September	October
Test Kickoff	Sys Test-P1 (6/1-6/29)	Sys Test-P2 (6/29-7/31)	Sys Test-P3 (8/10-9/4)		Deployment 1 Go-Live
		QA Test (6/29-8/21)		User Test (8/24-9/11)	

## Training Delivery Update

FMFI training for Deployment 1 users begins in June with the first course: *FMFI 101 - Introduction to FMFI*. This 100 Level course serves as a pre-requisite to all other FMFI training. FMFI 101 will be presented by OCFO Leadership on six separate occasions in June and July in the Metro Washington DC area, New Orleans, and by teleconference specifically for those who work elsewhere in the U.S. All individuals who will use the FMFI system for Deployment 1 are required to attend this foundational course.

The 200 Level Process Overview training will follow, starting in July and running through August. 200 level training is self-paced, online training accessed via AgLearn. Upper level training, 300 Level through 400 Level, will be delivered by instructors starting in August and will provide users with an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities in classrooms in order to better understand the benefits of the FMFI system.

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*The 100 Level course – FMFI 101 Introduction to FMFI – is a pre-requisite to all other FMFI training.*

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## Business Intelligence (BI) Reporting Deployment 1 Kickoff

The FMFI project officially held its Business Intelligence (BI) Reporting Kickoff June 10<sup>th</sup> with the Deployment 1 Agency and Staff Office Implementation Teams. BI represents the team of individuals who will implement the Business Warehouse (BW) tool. BW is a robust data warehouse platform that is used to fulfill the tactical and strategic reporting needs of FMFI. The platform enables users to make decisions using aggregated, historical data from both FMFI and non-FMFI source systems.

After an overview of the BI Team, the main areas of focus were around the key benefits BW offers, the phases the project will go through, and immediate next steps. BI Team Leads Tiffany Wimberly and Probal Gupta facilitated the kickoff sharing information on their roles and responsibilities, key activities and tasks to be completed for Go-Live, and answered questions from the audience.

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*Business Intelligence (BI) represents the team of individuals who will implement the Business Warehouse (BW) tool.*

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Following the initial kickoff, regular status meetings will be held with the Deployment 1 Reporting Leads to communicate information, discuss action items and track status of key implementation activities to continue the exchange of communication. BI Reporting Deployment 1.1 will go-live in January 2010 for Deployment 1 Agencies and Staff Offices.

## FMFI Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are 'roles' and how do they determine my FMFI training curriculum?**

Roles are based on FMFI tasks and activities needed to perform financial processes. They also establish proper segregation of duties and financial controls amongst users. USDA has been working with the FMFI team to align or 'map' users to new roles. Each role will drive specific training requirements based on the financial activities which need to be performed. The training curriculum and performance support materials are designed for each role. This approach ensures individuals will receive the training associated with the role(s) to which they are mapped.

### **How much training will I be required to take for FMFI?**

The FMFI training courses are specific to user roles. A sequence of courses will help USDA personnel to understand the "big picture" before getting into the details of learning their specific role(s). The length of training per person will vary depending on the number and complexity of roles assigned. Deployment 1 Agency/Staff Office FMFI Training Leads have been working with the FMFI Team to ensure the curriculum is prepared correctly. They will be sharing this information with users in the coming weeks.

## Spotlight on Cost Management

Cost Management is how organizations record, track and measure the flow of costs and revenue. Historically, financial practices in the Federal Government have been focused primarily on managing a budget, which rarely relates expenditures to outputs. A major initiative throughout the federal space is making government practices more transparent and government as a whole more accountable. USDA is changing its business practices to meet these evolving mandates. To do this, the Department will rely on Cost Management information in decision making. In this new strategic environment, decision makers must ask themselves critical questions to understand all of the key cost drivers and how to use cost information to make better decisions. Cost Management enables the effective trade-off of options to achieve the best possible use of limited resources.

FMMI enables USDA to perform the following cost management activities:

- Monitor and control expenditures and revenues
- Distribute expenses collected in Cost Objects to other Cost Objects in designated organizational structures that are responsible for these costs (cost allocation)
- Support billing of customers for all costs incurred on Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) Elements
- Monitor cost against billing rates
- Provide timely cost information for product/services costing and resource related planning and analysis activities

Cost Management requires USDA employees to work together in managing and using resources to optimize performance and results. It focuses on efficient and effective Government and is driven by law, regulation, and policy.

## Key Messages for Your Agency/Staff Office

*As leadership or the FMMI Point of Contact (POC) for your Agency/Staff Office, we rely on you to take back key messages to the rest of your organization about FMMI. Key points to relay to your organizations:*

- To ensure the FMMI system is fully operational by Deployment 1, several stages of testing occur: System Test, Quality Assurance Test, and User Test. System testing is the first point where the functional and business requirements for the FMMI solution are tested together. Quality Assurance Test focuses on interfaces with USDA Corporate Systems and Deployment 1 Candidate Systems. User Test gives selected users an opportunity to test the system to confirm it meets functional and business requirements.
- Deployment 1 Training begins with the foundational course: FMMI 101 – Introduction to FMMI. It will be presented by OCFO Leadership on six separate occasions. The 200 Level Process Overview training will start in July.
- The Business Intelligence (BI) Reporting Kickoff occurred June 10<sup>th</sup>. Following this initial kickoff, regular status meetings will be held with the Deployment 1 Reporting Leads to exchange information.
- Cost Management is how USDA records, tracks and measures the flow of costs and revenues. USDA will rely on Cost Management information for decision making, creating a more strategic environment, to support decisions and enable the effective trade-off of options to achieve the best possible use of limited resources.

## FMMI Calendar

### Business Intelligence (Reporting)

**Kickoff with D1 Agencies/SO**

**June 10**

**Mock 2 Conversion Begins**

**June 15**

**FMMI 101 Training Delivery**

**June 23-July17**

**Testing Readiness Review 2**

**Early July**

## Questions or Comments?

If you have questions about the FMMI project or information in this newsletter, please contact [FMMI@usda.gov](mailto:FMMI@usda.gov) and include a clear subject line to indicate what your question or concern is about.